

MOJAVE SOUTHERN GREAT BASIN RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting Minutes
Friday, Nov. 9, 2001
Elko Convention Center

Resource Advisory Council members present and category represented:

Callihan, Barbara	Disperse Recreation
Frank-Churchill, Maurice	Native American
Gayle-Young, Billie	Wild Horse and Burro
Helton, Jerry	Transportation and Row
Hiatt, John	Wildlife
Ioli, Mark	Mineral Development
Maichle, Bob	Environment
Mellington, Steve	Public at Large
Parker, Steven	Academic/UNLV

Resource Advisory Council members absent:

Agee, Marta	Grazing/Ranching
Beck, Colleen	Archaeology/Historic
Chicas, Patrick John	Permitted Recreation
Dondero, Thalia	Elected Official
Patterson, Ben	Grazing/Ranching

Bureau of Land Management representatives present:

Kolkman, Gene	Field Manager, Ely
Morse, Mark	Field Manager, Las Vegas
Smith, Gerald	Field Manager, Battle Mountain
Weeks, Jeff	Associate Field Manager, Ely

Public attendees:

None

A copy of each attachment is listed in the text of, or at the end of these minutes, and also is on file with the official copy of the minutes in the Las Vegas Field Office of the BLM. Persons desiring to view said attachments should contact Phillip Guerrero, Las Vegas Field Office, at

(702) 647-5046.

- Vice-Chairman Jerry Helton opened the meeting at 8:27 a.m. -

Election of officers, chair and vice-chair:

Mellington asked how long the term was for an elected official. Guerrero told Mellington that officials are elected to one-year terms.

- Mellington made a motion to nominate Helton as RAC chairman. Callihan seconded Mellington's motion. Approval was unanimous.
- Helton made a motion to nominate Mellington as RAC vice-chairman. Young seconded Helton's motion. Approval was unanimous.

Setting dates for meetings/location FY 2002

Helton placed the item lower on the agenda.

Las Vegas Field Office, priorities/issues - Mark Morse

- Relocating the office by Jan. 1, 2002, with the BLM, USFS and USFWS in one building.
- Existing Plan of Operations and Notices Review.
- Partnerships - Morse said the RAC is a highly-valued partner.
- Air quality - Morse said his office is trying to meet regulations established by Clark County government. Morse said the office is hiring air-quality specialists.
- Litter & illegal dumping - Morse said efforts are underway to clean up sites and educate the populace about the issues. Morse said his office is looking for project partners.
- Community pit review.
- Staff recruitment - Morse said his office is looking to recruit diverse and qualified staff members. Morse noted, also, the quality of his current field office staff.
- Environmental education, incl. The Oliver Ranch Environmental Education Center - Morse said engineering and feasibility studies are underway to see if the footprint will enable construction of the ranch, which would be a 200-250 bed facility when complete. Morse said the tentative completion date is 2006.
- Red Springs restoration - Morse said plans are to move the picnic and day-use area further from the spring itself.
- External Web-page development.
- A tracking system for the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.
- A Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan, or MSHCP.
- A Virgin River conservation strategy.
- The Sunrise Landfill - Morse said his office is trying to place the landfill under Clark County jurisdiction.
- Abandoned mines.
- The Nellis Plan - Morse said Congress directed his office to complete the plan by this past October, but that the Federal Notice has yet to be published. Morse said he hopes to have the notice published and plan completed by February 2002.

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- Recreation planning and use outside the RRCNCA.
- Livestock grazing impoundments.
- The Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act - Morse said the next sale is scheduled May 14, 2002.
- Fire.
- Energy.
- Legislation.

Ely Field Office, priorities/issues - Gene Kolkman/Jeff Weeks (refer to attachment A)

- The five top issues are:
 - Power plant applications.
 - The Spring Valley exchange.
 - The Great Basin Restoration Initiative, or GBRI.
 - Off Highway Vehicles, or OHVs.
 - Also, indirectly affecting the RAC are:
 - Additional lands for the Duckwater Shoshone Tribe.
 - Additional lands for the Ely Shoshone Tribe.

Battle Mountain Field Office, priorities/issues - Gerald Smith

- The Legacy Plan.
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, or ACEC.
- The Great Basin Restoration Initiative, or GBRI.
- Sage Grouse habitats.
- Forage Banks.
- Timbisha.
- Land disposals and/or exchanges.

Mellington asked Smith for his office's top three issues. Smith said they are: The ACEC amendment, implementation of Standards and Guidelines and establishment of a forage bank.

Helton asked Kolkman for his office's top three issues. Kolkman said they are: Power generation, the Spring Valley exchange and the Great Basin Restoration Initiative. Kolkman also listed off-road vehicle use.

Helton asked Morse for his office's top three issues. Morse said the single largest issue is air quality.

- Helton recessed the meeting at 10:15 a.m., and reconvened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. -

FY 2002 issues by priority - categorized as action or update items:

Action items

Toquop
ACEC amendments
Land exchanges

Update items

Coyote Springs
S & G implementation
Shoshone lands exchange

PG&E/power plants
Spring Valley exchange

Wind energy developments
Cold Creek
The Great Basin Restoration Initiative
Off-Highway Vehicles
Environmental education
Red Rock GMP
Yucca Mountain wind energy MNS
SNPLMA
Kern River
3809 Mining regulations
Pod reorganization

Wild Horse & Burro
Gov't to gov't relations with Native American tribes
Vacant allotment allocations
Grazing
Sage Grouse
Native American lands issues
Reburial on public lands
Pinyon-juniper guidelines
3809 mining regulations
Weeds

Consolidation of action items - The RAC members were unable to do so.

Setting dates for meetings/location FY 2002 - the RAC members agreed to meet four times as follows: Thursday and Friday, Jan 17-18, 2002, at the Las Vegas Field Office; Thursday and Friday, March 7-8, 2002, at a location to be determined later; in June, 2002, in White Pine County; and Wednesday through Friday, Aug. 21-23, 2002, with the Yomba Shoshone Tribe.

Tri-RAC working lunch - cancelled.

Meeting topics for the upcoming year:

- January
 - Cold Creek subcommittee
 - Environmental education
 - Government to government relations with Native American tribes
 - OHV subcommittee
 - Red Rock
 - Sage Grouse
 - Scoping for wind energy
 - SNPLM subcommittee
 - Weeds
- March
 - Government to government relations with Native American tribes
 - Kern River
 - OHV subcommittee
 - Sage Grouse subcommittee
 - SNPLMA
 - Standards and Guidelines implementation

- Toquop Energy
- Wind Energy
- June
 - Spring Valley exchange
- August
 - ACEC amendments
 - Indian lands and reburial issues
 - Shoshone land withdrawal
 - Vacant lots

Pod reorganization - Should the RACs eliminate the Pod system?

Kolkman voiced concern that eliminating the Pod system could make appointments to the Resource Advisory committee political in nature.

Callihan asked if the quorum for each pod could be reduced from three members to two. Helton expressed concern that should the number be lowered, only six RAC members - two from each pod - would constitute a quorum for the 15-member RAC, thereby making RAC decisions with less than a simple majority of the RAC represented.

Kolkman suggested obtaining a copy of the RAC regulations. Helton reminded the members attending that they were to make a recommendation to the Department of the Interior only.

Maichle suggested a 10-member per meeting minimum, with at least two pods having a quorum. Callihan countered that it could be lowered to an eight-member per meeting minimum. As a solution, Callihan proposed that a minimum of two-thirds of the RAC members attend each meeting, with at least one member from each pod. Approval was unanimous.

- Helton adjourned the meeting at 1 p.m. -

APPROVED BY:

Date

Jerry Helton, Chair
Mojave-Southern Great Basin
Resource Advisory Council

Minutes provided by Chris Hanefeld, Public Affairs Specialist, BLM Ely District

Attachments:

- A - Ely Field Office priorities/issues.

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